

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An elongate joining member configured for bridging a gap formed between a first and at least a second panels, each panel having a first surface and an opposed second surface, the~~ A panel assembly comprising at least two panels, each panel having a first surface, a second opposed rear surface and side walls, said at least two panels arranged relative to one another such that a sidewall of one panel and a sidewall of a second panel define a gap therebetween, said panel assembly further comprising a joining member to bridge said gap, said joining member comprising:

a flange member;

an extension member extending from said flange member, said extension member having a length greater than a length between said first and second opposed surfaces of said panels; and

at least one resilient retaining member connected to said extension member, and having a first biased configuration relative to said the extension member, said at least one resilient retaining member being moveable between said first biased configuration and a second different configuration, and wherein in said second configuration, said at least one resilient retaining member is insertable into said gap between the first and at least second panels, and further wherein when the at least one resilient retaining member is positioned beyond said gap, said at least one resilient retaining member resiliently returns at least towards said first biased configuration relative to the extension member and wherein the length of the extension member positions the at least one resilient retaining member such as to engage said second surface of at least one of said panels;

said flange member being moveable from a substantially domed configuration relative to ~~the said first surfaces of said first and at least second panels~~ to a substantially flat configuration relative to said first surfaces to substantially bridge the gap between said ~~first and at least first~~ and second panels;

wherein said flange member is retained in said substantially flat configuration by the engagement of said at least one resilient retaining member with the second surface of said at least one of said panels.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~joining member~~ panel assembly of claim 1 wherein the flange member comprises a main body defined on one side by a first surface for engaging said at least a portion of the first surface of both the first and second panels and a second opposing side that presents the outward appearance of the joining member.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The ~~joining member~~ panel assembly of claim 1 wherein, in the second substantially flat configuration, the first surface of the flange member is substantially flush with the two panels.
5. (Currently Amended) The ~~joining member~~ panel assembly of claim 1 wherein the extension member is relatively straight and extends from a proximal end adjacent the flange member to a distal end.
6. (Currently Amended) The ~~joining member~~ panel assembly of claim 1 wherein the at least one resilient retaining member comprises opposing first and second leg members each connected to and disposed at an angle relative to the extension member.
7. (Currently Amended) The ~~joining member~~ panel assembly of claim 6 wherein in said first biased configuration, the first and second leg members extend from a first end that is connected to the extension member to a second end that is spaced from the extension member.
8. (Currently Amended) The ~~joining member~~ panel assembly of claim 7 wherein the second end of the first leg member is engageable with the second surface of the first panel and the second end of the second leg member is engageable with the second surface of the second panel.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~joining member~~ panel assembly of claim 8 wherein the second end of the first and second leg members include a grooved or serrated face to engage the second surfaces of the panels.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~joining member~~ panel assembly of claim 1 wherein the resilient retaining member includes a single leg member connected to the extension member.

12 - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~An elongate joining member for bridging a gap between a first and at least a second panels; A panel assembly comprising at least two panels, each panel having a first surface, and an opposed a second opposed rear surface and side walls, the said at least two panels arranged relative to one another such that a sidewall of one panel and a sidewall of a second panel define a gap therebetween, said panel assembly further comprising a joining member to bridge said gap, said joining member comprising:~~

a flange member;

at least two resilient extension members which each extend from a first end connected to said flange member to a second free end, each resilient extension member having a length greater than the length between the first and second surfaces of said panels, and comprising

at least one resilient retaining member positioned at or adjacent to said second end of at least one of the extension members;

and wherein each resilient extension member is moveable relative to the other from a first biased configuration to a second, different insertion configuration for insertion into said gap and when positioned beyond said gap, said extension members adopt said first biased configuration, the length of each extension member being such that when positioned beyond said gap, said at least one of the extension members engage resilient retaining member engages at least a portion of the second surface of at least one of the panels;

said flange member being moveable from a substantially domed configuration relative to said first surfaces of said panels to a substantially flat configuration relative to said first surfaces of said panels to substantially bridge the gap therebetween;

wherein said flange member is retained in said substantially flat configuration by the engagement of said at least one resilient retaining member with the second surface of said at least one of said panels.

15 - 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A joining member configured to bridge a gap between a first panel and a second panel, each panel~~ A panel assembly comprising at least two panels, each panel having a first surface, and an opposing second a second opposed rear surface and side walls, said at least two panels arranged relative to one another such that a sidewall of one panel and a sidewall of a second panel define a gap therebetween, said assembly further comprising a joining member to bridge said gap, said, the joining member comprising:

a flange including a first outer surface and an opposing second surface, the flange having a first configuration in which the first outer surface has a domed shape and a second configuration in which the first outer surface is substantially flat relative to the first surfaces of said panels;

an extension member connected to the second surface of the flange at a proximal end and extending to a distal end; said extension member having a length greater than the length between the first and second surfaces of said panels; and

a retaining member connected to and extending from the distal end of the extension member, the retaining member including a leg member having a first end and an opposing second end, wherein the first end of the leg member is connected to the distal end of the extension member, the retaining member having an expanded configuration and a collapsed insertion configuration for insertion of the retaining member through said gap; wherein when the retaining member is positioned beyond said gap it is in said expanded configuration, and wherein the length of the extension member is such that the retaining member is caused to engage at least

a portion of the second surface of at least one of the panels, said engagement causing said flange to be retained in said substantially flat configuration.

19. (Canceled)

20. (New) A method of bridging a gap between at least two panels, each panel having a first surface and a second opposed surface, the method including the steps of:

(a) providing an elongate joining member comprising a flange member, an extension member extending from said flange member and at least one retaining member connected to said extension member;

(b) aligning said joining member with the gap between said at least two panels; and

(c) applying pressure to the joining member to cause the at least one retaining member to move from a first configuration to a second configuration such that said retaining member is moveable through said gap and at least partly beyond said gap whereupon the at least one retaining member moves from said second configuration to said first configuration and engages at least a portion of the second surface of each panel and wherein further, the flange member is brought into engagement with at least a portion of the first surface of each panel.

21. (New) A method of bridging a gap between at least two panels, each panel having a first surface and a second opposed surface, the method including the steps of:

(a) providing an elongate joining member comprising a flange member and at least two extension members extending from said flange member, at least one extension member including at least one retaining member;

(b) aligning said joining member with the gap between said at least two panels; and

(c) applying pressure to the joining member to cause the at least two extension members to move relative to each other from a first configuration to a second configuration such that said at least two extension members are caused to move into and through said gap and wherein at least a portion of the at least one retaining member is brought into engagement with at least a portion of the second surface of a panel and wherein further, the flange member is brought into engagement with at least a portion of the first surface of each panel.